

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, September 11. 1708.

IN our last speaking of what the King of S.... might do, if he had brought his *Muscovian* Enterprize to a Conclusion, it seem'd, as if I put the whole Affairs of *Europe* into his Hand, and I am charg'd with laying the Confederates too open to the Arbitriment of the S...., as if it was in their Power to oblige us to what Terms of Peace they pleas'd; no, no, say our boasting Champions, that stay at Home, and talk the War up to such Extreams, as they think fit.

No, no, we are not so apprehensive of the S... neither; were the King of *France* and he joya'd together, we could deal with them both; we would but send a Navy into the *Baltick*, and join about 15000 Men to the Forces of the King of *Denmark*,

and we would soon fetch that Monarch home again to defend his own Country of *Schonen*; we would put a full Stop to the whole Commerce of his Kingdom, starve his People, and bombard his Capital City, and if he was not a-weary of the War abroad, we could find out Ways and Means to make him weary of the War at home, we would do well enough with the S....

This is Language that might do very well, if we were not already over Head and Ears in the War with *France*; if the *French* were a Nation that would ever despair or give out; but while they fight to the last Gasps, while they yield out by Inches, while in *Flanders* they beat them in the Field, you can take our one Town a Year from them—While they meet

meet us in every Corner with numerous Troops, face us and all our Confederates with Numbers, able to act at least defensively, and in some Places offensively; while *France* shows himself thus a March for all *Europe*, and such Difficulties appear every Day in the Attempt to reduce him—Let them that are so warm, and value themselves so much, tell me what way should we deal with the *French* King, if the *S....* with 60 or 70000 Men should joyn him?

I think, the Text needs no Comment, I should be very loth to see that time; and therefore when I say, it is in the *S....* Power to turn the Scale of *Europe*, I have two Prospects.

1. Should the *S....* come into the Confederacy, as if he were at Liberty, I should hope, from the Zeal he has shown for the Protestant Religion, he would; he would have no more to do than to send the King of *France* Conditions of Peace, and demand him to sign them, and bid him proceed in this War no farther.
2. Should the *S....* joyn with *France*, I could not but think, that in Regard to the Liberties of *Europe*, he would propose such Conditions of Peace, as would be safe and honourable, and that therefore the Confederates would soon comply with them; but I will not say, if he should do otherwise, that we would stand out, unless the Hardships were very great.

If therefore I were ask'd, what I would wish to have the King of *S....* do, I'd be very positive in my Answer; I would wish, that his Majesty, making such a Peace with the Czar of *Muscovy*, as might be safe, honourable and advantageous to his own Kingdoms and to his Neighbours, and being at full Leisure to face to that Part of *Europe*, would march with 70000 Men to the *Rhine*, and from thence offer his Mediation for the Conclusion of this bloody and destructive War, that *Europe* after 20 Years Convulsions might obtain some Rest, and the Liberties of *Europe* being restor'd, and their People, States, Princes, and Govern-

ments being made easie and safe, the Stream of Blood may be stoppt, and the innocent People be left to enjoy the Blessings of Life, which their Maker has appointed for them, and be undisturb'd by the Ambition and Cruelty of great unbounded Tyrants.

Upon this Foot then, a Treaty being begun, I should no more doubt, but his *S....* Majesty, fully convinc'd of the Justice of this War, would fairly decide in Favour of the Confederates thus far;

1. That *France* ought to quit the *Spanish* Monarchy, and leave *Europe* upon the same Foot; as to the Ballance of Power, that the continuing that Monarchy in the House of *Austria* would preserve.
2. That *France* ought to deliver up the Encroachments and Invasions he has made on his Neighbours, set free the Duke of *Lorraine's* Dominion, give up the *Spanish Netherlands*, and the Annexation of the *Pais Conquis* in the *Netherlands*.
3. That *France* ought to leave the Empire entire, and surrender *Alsace*, *Upper and Lower*, the *Brisgaw*, and the Countries between the *Rhine* and the *Moselle*, restore *Strasbourg*, *Fort-Louis*, *Brisack*, and the *Kiel*, unbridle the *Swiss* by demolishing *Hunningben*, unsaddle *Lorraine* by surrendering *Metz*, *Toul* and *Verdun*, and leaving his 13 Fortifications on the *Saar*, in the Posture he found them.
4. That *France* should give sufficient Caution for the Security of the Peace of *Europe*, restore his Protestant Subjects at home, and be no more a Terror to the Protestant Religion abroad.

Would his *S....* Majesty bring *France* to this, he should get more Honour than by carrying his Conquests to the *Caspian* Sea, and ravaging the Heart of *Muscovy*; then he shall be the Hero of this Age, the Terror of Tyrants, the Defender of the Protestant Religion, and the great Arbiter of *Europe*. This shall render him worthy of his great Ancestor, the Great *Gustavus Adolphus*,

Adolphus, whose Throne he possesses, tho' not directly of his Line; and I cannot but wonder, that his S... Majesty does not see this great Occasion of raising his Glory to the highest Pitch this World can place it in, and immediately lay hold on it.

Would his S... Majesty do this, I would not repine, that *France* remain'd a Kingdom, or that *Lewis XIV.* reign'd to the Age of *Mahusalem*; I would not grudge the *French* the Enjoyment of the best Soil and best Clime in *Europe*; I would not envy them the Prosperity of their own Industry, in which they are apparently an encreasing Nation. I say again, and always said it, we do not fight against *France* not to have it be a Nation, nor against the *French* King not to have him be a King—We dispute not his Title to his Crown, nor his Peoples Right to the Country they possess; but we fight against the *French* Invasions, their Encroachments on the Liberties

of *Europe*, and the Possessions of their Neighbours; we fight to restore injur'd Princes to their rightful Possession, to dispossess exorbitant Power, and reduce a Prince, that has made himself *Europe's* Terror, to be one of her peaceable Members, without a Will, or at least without Hands of Violence wherewith to oppress his Neighbours. This is all we seek of the King of *France*; let him be what he will, he must account to his Maker for all his Malversations of other Kinds; make him but account to the Princes now upon his Hands, for the Oppressions he has been the Instrument of, and restore to every one what he has unjustly taken from them; let him disarm and show his Resolutions for Peace, and make the World easie as to its Continuance, and let him have Peace when he pleases, we shall then have all we fight for; and let any Man tell me, if we have any thing else to ask of him?

MISCELLANEA.

HAVING given you an Account of the Accusation or Charge against the Episcopal Clergy in *Edinburgh*, and of their Answers in general and in particular, I know it is expected, I should enter upon a Defence of the Proceedings against them. But before I meddle with that, I am to inform the World—That notwithstanding according to the Laws of *Scotland* they were committed to Prison, and might have been by the same Laws continued there, until they gave Security to forbear their Meetings, or till they would take the Oaths to the Government which the Law required; yet the Magistrates of *Edinburgh* have been so gentle in the Execution of this Power, and so tender to the Gentlemen so imprison'd, that they have already let them all out—What Securities or Obligations they are come under, let them say for themselves, if they please.

I must confess, I do not at all grudge them their Liberty, let the Terms be never so easie to them; I am not shy of giving it as my Opinion, and to which my Practice shall, I hope, on all Occasions correspond, that I am against all Coercives in Matters meerly Religious, and tho' it is alledg'd, that this is a Civil not a Religious Affair, yet I shall not offer it as my Opinion, that Oaths are any Security to a Government, or of any Signification at all, except it be to bind honest Men, and let Villains go free.

I believe, all the World will clear me of the Suspicion of being inclin'd to *Jacobitism*, and I shall certainly be suspected of *that* and *Mahometanism* both at a time; yet while I say a profess'd *Jacobite* may be an honest Man, I must say a swearing *Jacobite*, *that is*, one who taking the Oaths smiles upon the Government, but acts against its Interest, and